

IN THE ABSTRACT

--On page 35, cancel the abstract and substitute the following:

A sales transaction system utilizing electronically stored coupons including a portable handheld optical code reader for scanning symbols on paper coupons associated with product items to be purchased a host computer for receiving data associated with the scanned coupons from of the reader, and for redeeming the electronically stored coupons for each respective corresponding item purchased.

Alternatively, also is provided a method of preparing paper coupons to facilitate a sales transaction by providing a customer identifier in a user's computer; inputting into the computer an electronic coupon template for a specific product; providing the customer identifier data into the coupon template; and printing a paper coupon including the customer identifier data for the specific product.--

REMARKS

The present amendment replaces the originally submitted claims and abstract in order to more accurately describe the claimed subject matter.

Respectfully submitted,



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